

## **GOVERNOR HALEY REEVES BARBOUR**

In two historic, successful campaigns for Governor, Yazoo City native Haley Reeves Barbour offered a new path for Mississippi in job creation, education, health care, energy, safer communities and stronger families. His message resonated with voters: His election in 2003 marked the largest voter turnout in Mississippi gubernatorial history, and he was reelected in 2007 with 58.2 percent of the vote. He is only the second governor since Reconstruction to be elected to a second consecutive term as Mississippi's chief executive.

Governor Barbour's first term was highlighted by many accomplishments, including:

- The most comprehensive tort reform in the nation, restoring balance for plaintiffs and defendants in the state's civil justice system;
- "Momentum Mississippi," an update to the state's economic development programs. During the Barbour Administration, Mississippi has seen a net increase of more than 50,000 new jobs, and personal income is up nearly 20 percent. Recent major announcements include Toyota, whose auto assembly plant was the most sought-after economic development project in the United States; General Electric, which will manufacture advanced jet engine components; SeverCorr, which is building a state-of-the-art steel mill; and PACCAR, which is building a diesel engine manufacturing plant.
- Record funding increases for all three levels of education in Mississippi - K-12, community colleges, and universities. State appropriations for K-12 schools have increased by \$529 million during the Barbour Administration, the largest increase in K-12 spending in any four year period under any governor in the history of our state. Across-the-board reforms in public education, including new focus on teacher and school performance, reducing state bureaucracy and strengthening discipline.
- Saving the Medicaid program for truly needy recipients, emphasizing preventative care and implementing the strongest anti-fraud plan in the history of Mississippi Medicaid.
- Putting more Troopers on the highways and increasing their pay; tougher measures to fight the scourge of illegal drugs;

strengthening penalties against criminals who commit crimes with guns.

- Protecting the unborn. The Governor initiated and the Legislature passed seven pro-life laws that make Mississippi “the safest place in America for an unborn child,” according to a national right-to-life organization.

Today, under Governor Barbour’s leadership, Mississippi is emerging as a leader in utilizing the state’s abundant resources and developing alternative, affordable, and sustainable sources of energy. To date, approximately \$10.5 billion in projects have been announced, involving biofuels, liquefied natural gas, clean coal and coal to liquid, and nuclear power. In total, the state is actively pursuing and negotiating additional energy-related projects valued at more than \$26.3 billion.

In the face of the worst natural disaster in American history – Hurricane Katrina, which struck on August 29, 2005 – Governor Barbour took the lead early on helping Mississippians rebuild and recover. He and First Lady Marsha Barbour, his wife of 36 years, have worked tirelessly and innovatively with local, state and national leadership to tap into many resources of assistance for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

He created the Governor’s Commission on Recovery, Rebuilding, and Renewal to develop a broad vision for opportunities to help South Mississippi rebuild bigger and better than ever. The commission has been folded into the Office of the Governor, where its work continues.

For his leadership after Katrina, Governor Barbour was awarded the Thomas Jefferson Freedom Award, which is presented by the bipartisan American Legislative Exchange Council to a nationally recognized public sector leader who has an extraordinary record of successfully advancing Jeffersonian principles.

He was also named Governor of the Year by Washington, D.C.-based Governing magazine and awarded the Gulf Guardian Award by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for his work to rebuild and protect sensitive Coast ecosystems.

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